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than was supposed. There is much evidence of ice action in the valleys within the Endicott range and in the Koyukuk province.

There are indications of mineralization nearly all the way northward through the Endicott Mountains, but the principal producing region is on the upper part of the middle and north forks of the Koyukuk River. Though this region contains coal and some lead, copper, and antimony, gold alone has thus far proved to be of economic importance. Coal in one form or another occurs in the Koyukuk range, on the Anaktuvuk plateau, on the coastal plain, and at several points along the coast.

In addition to the topographic and geologic maps, the report is beautifully illustrated with numerous photographs, showing all the different aspects of the country, including the valley of the John, the Endicott Mountains, the Anaktuvuk plateau, the bluffs along the Colville, the Arctic coast, and the edge of the moss-covered coastal plain.

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#### THE POPULATION OF INDIA.

The India Office now issues as a Blue-Book the voluminous General Report and tables—monuments of unpretentious learning and patient labour that form a fitting close to the herculean task of numbering nearly 300,000,000 people. The primary responsibility for the census fell upon Mr. H. H. Risley, C.I.E., who acknowledges his indebtedness to the army of 1,457,400 persons who aided him.

Of the total area of India, 1,766,597 square miles, 61.5 per cent. is under direct British administration, as is also 78.8 per cent. of the total population, 294,361,056. The native States, while comprising over one-third of the area, include much less than one-quarter of the people. The largest British province is Burma; but the most populous is Bengal, with 78,500,000 persons, or practically a population as large as that of the United States. Next come the United Provinces, 48,500,000, and Bombay, 42,500,000. Hyderabad with 11,000,000 stands first among the native States.

The most important factors affecting the rural distribution of population are the amount and regularity of the water supply. The most densely-peopled tract in India, a Cochin taluk,\* with 1,920 per square mile, has the heaviest and most regular rainfall; while

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\* *Taluk* is a subdivision of a district.

the scantiest population is found in the almost rainless regions of Jaisalmer. But various influences—irrigation, forests, etc.—modify this correspondence between density and rainfall. The highest density among the 20 meteorological divisions is in the Bengal Delta—552 people per square mile, with a rainfall of 80 inches, after which come the Himalayan region and the Indo-Gangetic plain. The lowest density (11 per square mile) is in Baluchistan. Where the rainfall dwindles irrigation may maintain a high density, as in the Punjab, where canals secure 12,000,000 acres from crop failure.

The general standard of comfort is highest in Eastern Bengal, where there is an extremely dense and rapidly-increasing population, three-fourths of whom live by agriculture. Muzaffarpur (Bengal) has a density of 917, owing to constant subdivision of property among petty proprietors. In Assam 97 per cent. of the people live in villages, and tea, its one industry, tends to prevent the growth of towns, since each large garden forms a centre in itself. In Baluchistan 44 per cent. of the people pursue a pastoral, nomad life.

Taking India as a whole, we find that only one-tenth of the population live in towns. The tendency to town life is most marked in Baroda and Gujarat, least marked in Baluchistan, Kashmir, and Assam. In populous Bengal only 5 per cent. live in towns of over 5,000 people. The increase in the urban populations revealed by the census (about 7.3 per cent.) is mainly ascribed to railway extension and to the development of industry and commerce, but the congregation of famine-stricken country people in certain towns at the census time is a factor to be remembered.

With regard to religions, the Parsis, Jains, and Christians live in towns to the extent of 85, 30, and 22 per cent. respectively. In Bengal, Assam, Baluchistan, and the Punjab the Mussulman takes less to town life than the Hindu, but elsewhere the reverse holds true. India has only 29 cities with over 100,000 inhabitants. Most of these are old, political capitals, trade centres, or sacred cities. Some, like Patna, Benares, Allahabad, and Mandalay, are stationary or decadent; others, like Delhi, Cawnpur, Agra, Ahmadabad, and Nagpur, have adapted themselves to new industrial conditions and progressed; while others, like Rangoon and Karachi, have practically been created by modern commerce. Calcutta (including the thriving industrial suburb of Howrah) ranks among the 12 chief cities of the world, with 1,106,738 people—an increase of 24 per

cent. since 1891. Its industrial character is shown by the fact that two-thirds of the population were born elsewhere, and that females number only 507 to 1,000 males. In other words, the many immigrants mostly leave their women at home. Plague and its consequences explain the reduction of Bombay City by 6 per cent. to a total of 776,006, of whom only one-quarter were born there. In Madras, which is less important industrially, fewer than one-third of the population of 509,346 came from the outside. Among towns of under 100,000 that exhibit noteworthy growth are Peshawur, Jabalpur, Dacca, Multan, Sholápur, Haidarábád (Sind), Hubli, and Coconada.

The gross increase in the total population, allowing for new areas and better enumeration, was only 1.5 per cent.—a gain of 3.9 per cent. in British provinces being set off by a decline of 6.6 in native States. Burma and Assam have made great progress, but famine and plague caused a notable falling off in Bombay and the central provinces. Other provinces have also suffered considerably from the scarcities and the epidemics of disease that have left so black a mark on the decade. Plague alone probably claimed a million victims. Mortality from famine would have been greater but for the irrigation canals, which increased in mileage from 9,000 to 43,000 in the ten years, and now secure 30,000,000 acres from drought.

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## FETISH—ITS RELATION TO THE FAMILY.

BY

R. H. NASSAU, M.D., D.D.

In most tribes of the Bantu the unit in the constitution of the community is the Family, not the individual. However successful a man may be in trade, hunting, or any other means of gaining wealth, he cannot, even if he would, keep it all to himself. He must share with the Family, whose indolent members thus are supported by the more energetic or industrious. I often urged my civilized employees not to spend their wages immediately, almost on pay-day itself, in the purchase of things they really did not need. I represented that they should lay by "for a rainy day." But they said that if it was known that they had money laid up their relatives would give them no peace till they had almost compelled them to draw it and divide it with them. They all yielded to this,